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Security Council
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Letter dated 11 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that on 8 March 2011, as a result of the ceasefire violation by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, from a position situated in the occupied Shikhlar village of the Agdam district of the Republic of Azerbaijan, an Armenian sniper shot Fariz Badalov, a nine-year-old resident of the village of Orta Garvand in the same district. He was wounded in the head but died before he reached hospital.

We have repeatedly stated that the Armenian side regularly and deliberately violates the ceasefire by attacking and killing not only Azerbaijani soldiers but also civilians residing in the territories adjacent to the front line. Over the last years, such violations have become more frequent and violent.

My Government strongly protests against yet another hateful and dangerous provocation of the Republic of Armenia. By the intentional killing of an Azerbaijani child and the shameless denial of its responsibility for this odious crime, the Armenian side has demonstrated once again that it feels no remorse for the senseless loss of life of a nine-year-old boy, and that moral and ethical principles of humanity are alien to it.

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Attacks against the civilians are also illustrative of the consistent disrespect by the Republic of Armenia of its obligations both under international law and within the ongoing conflict settlement process.

It is notable that the Azerbaijani child was shot dead three days after the meeting between the Presidents of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, held in Sochi on 5 March 2011, at the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation, to pursue the dialogue between the parties on the settlement of the conflict.

The bloody action of the occupying Armenian armed forces against the defenceless Azerbaijani child can in no way contribute to the establishment of confidence between the parties and is yet another solid piece of evidence of the Republic of Armenia's unwillingness to settle the conflict by political means and in a constructive manner.

In their statement released on 9 March 2011, the Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group strongly condemned any loss of life and expressed their deep concern over reports of ceasefire violations before and after the Sochi summit of 5 March. In this regard, they asked the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to carry out an immediate investigation.

My Government expresses its hope for an objective and thorough investigation of the incident that caused the death of Fariz Badalov and for subsequent resolute measures aimed at bringing those responsible for this crime to justice. I have also been instructed to call upon the States Members of the United Nations to condemn the Republic of Armenia for systematic violations of the ceasefire regime and deliberate attacks on Azerbaijani civilians.

It is absolutely clear that, for the purposes of lasting peace, security and stability, the Republic of Armenia must, in the first place, cease its provocative and hostile policy, put a prompt end to its aggression and withdraw all its armed forces from all the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, thus enabling Azerbaijani internally displaced persons to return to their homes.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 39, 64, 66 and 75, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative